

REMARKS

At the time the Official Action was mailed, claims 1-21 were pending in the present application. In the Official Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-7, objected to claims 13 and 14 and rejected claims 8-12 and 15-21. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 1-7. Reconsideration of the remaining claims, as amended, is respectfully requested in view of the remarks set forth below.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification and requested that the cross-reference to the related application be updated to include the appropriate serial number and filing date. Applicants have included a replacement paragraph, as set forth above, incorporating the requested information. Applicants respectfully submit that the replacement paragraph, showing the changes made, is sufficient to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Rejections under 35. U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner objected to claims 9, 10, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 20 and 21 as failing to provide sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 10 was rejected based on its dependency to claim 9.

For reasons unrelated to the present rejection, claim 8 has been amended to recite "a posting queue." Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment is sufficient to provide proper antecedent basis for claims 9 and 10. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to recite "the first address," rather than "a first address." Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment is sufficient to provide proper antecedent basis for claims 20 and 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejections under 35. U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maguire et al. (US 6,321,307). Further, the Examiner rejected claims 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hayek et al. (US 6,115,796). The Examiner rejected claims 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ghosh et al. (US 5,813,036). The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Merchant (US 5,893,151). Finally the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deshpande et al (US 6,591,348) in view of Ghosh et al. (US 5,813,036).

In discussing the allowable subject matter of the present application, the Examiner stated:

In claim 1, applicants claim a method of maintaining cache coherency in a multi-processor-bus computer system comprising: "snooping a second bus for the first address" and "searching a posted queue for a posted writeback, the posted writeback having the corresponding second address, wherein the act of searching occurs simultaneously with respect to the act of snooping" [claim 1]. Further, applicants claim "detecting a posted writeback having the corresponding second address in the posting queue; (b) re-ordering the posting queue such that the posted writeback to the second address is moved up in the posting queue; and (c) initiating a second read to a second portion of memory corresponding to the second address" [claims 9 and 13]. Prior art of record do not teach the specified cited supra. Therefore, the claims 1-7, 9-10, and 13-14 are allowed for the reasons stated above.

Claims 1, 8, 12 and 16 are independent claims. Based on the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended independent claims 8, 12 and 16 to include subject matter that the Examiner has indicated as allowable. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter recited in claims 8-21, as amended, is not disclosed in any of the art of record, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 8-21.

Conclusion

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 1-7. In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 8-21. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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